

# THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

JUNE 1961

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

## ***ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH***

ST. JAMES

WELCOMES YOU

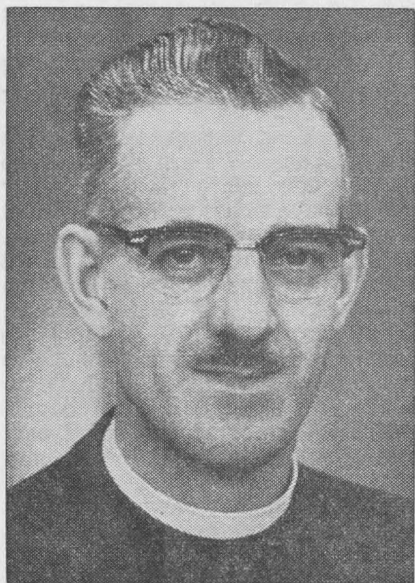
to the

76th ANNUAL  
CONVENTION

of the

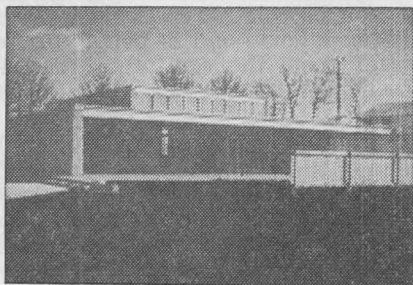
ICELANDIC  
LUTHERAN SYNOD

June 11 - 14, 1961



**REV. W. BECKER**

**Host Pastor**



122 NESS AVENUE  
ST. JAMES, MANITOBA

# Greetings from Host Pastor

When a young person establishes a home of his own he is normally proud and happy. When his parents, relatives and friends come for a visit he rejoices in showing them his new home and in being able to offer them the comforts and conveniences he has been able to attain.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church is one of the youngsters of Synod, rejoicing in its own home. Being host to a Synodical convention may be a fairly routine matter for some of our older churches but not for us

at St. Stephen's. We are thrilled to be your hosts — and a little nervous lest we offer you less than the best we have.

To every pastor, delegate, and visitor, we extend a most sincere welcome! Our aim is to offer you every comfort and convenience at our disposal. Our prayer is that God may inspire us with His Holy Spirit as we meet in convention so that all our deliberations and actions may be in accord with His will.

The Rev. Walter G. Becker

## Move On!

Now we are at the bottom of the list of the thirty-two synods in U.L.C.A. and once more reminded of the fact that our synod is lagging far behind in benevolence giving.

Why? Many reasons are stated; some are true, but others are false. What alarms me is not the fact that we are behind, but rather the fact that so many of our people within our congregations seem to look at this as a matter of course and so many seem to believe that nothing can be done.

The fact that we do not pay our share to the work of the church is very serious, not only because it means that fewer people will learn of Christ, but also because it indicates that there is something wrong among us.

What is wrong? Why are we behind? Is it because we are few? Or is it because we are worse off than other people in North America? Or is it because there are too many inactive members in our congregations?

I think the average congregation in our Synod is smaller than in most of the bigger Synods in the U.L.C.A., but the difference is not big enough to justify our low benevolence giving.

The second reason is false. We are not poor. We are rich, and we have much spare time and our people have much ability. It is all a matter of how we use these gifts.

The main reason is the third one. There are too many inactive members in our congregations. What can be done? We have to reach the inactive, and we have to reach them with the Gospel.

The fact is, that in most congregations a comparatively small part of the congregation is active, and does most of the work and gives most of the money needed to do the work. On the other end there are people who are absolutely inactive and hardly ever or never show up in church. And in the middle we have people who attend church

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# *76th Annual Convention Agenda*

ICELANDIC SYNOD, U.L.C.A.

**ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

St. James, Man.

**JUNE 11th to 14th, 1961**

## **Sunday, June 11th**

1:00 - 6:00 p.m. — Registration of Delegates and guests — Parish House.

7.30 p.m. — Opening Service with Holy Communion.

Preacher. The Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D.

Liturgists: The Rev. Donald Olson, The Rev. Walter Becker.

Reception of Pastors: The Rev. D. R. Johnson, The Rev. L. Nadiger,  
The Rev. W. Becker.

Formal Opening of Synod.

Appointment of Committees.

## **Monday, June 12th**

9:00 a.m. — Devotions — The Rev. Lorne Nadiger.

Reports of Officers:— (a) President. (b) Secretary. (c) Treasurer.

Reports of Committees:— (a) Credentials. (b) Finance. (c) Stewardship. (d) Reference and Council.

11:00 a.m. — "IN MEMORIAM". The Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson.

Introduction of Visitors.

12:15 p.m. — Lunch.

1:45 — Devotions — The Rev. Lorne Nadiger.

Roll Call.

Business Session: Report of the Lutheran Women's League.

Report of Parish Education Committee.

2:30 p.m. — Special Order. The Rev. Clemens H. Zeidler, Litt. D.,  
U.L.C.A. Representative.

3:30 p.m. — Coffee Break.

4:00 p.m. — Business Session:

Report of Betel Home Foundation.

Report of the Evangelism and Social Action Committee.

Report of Viking Luther League.

5:30 p.m. — Adjourn.

6:00 p.m. — Supper.

8:00 p.m. — Devotions. Musical Selections.

Addresses: Theme: "How the Lutheran Church in North America  
Looks to Me". Speakers: The Rev. Jon Bjarman, The Rev.  
Ingthor Indridason.

# 76th Annual Convention Agenda

## Tuesday Morning — June 13th

- 7:30 a.m. — Lutheran Laymen's Breakfast. Program Chairman: N. O. Bardal. Address: "What the Lutheran Laymen's Movement Means to the United Lutheran Church in America." The Rev. C. H. Zeidler, Litt.D., U.L.C.A. Representative.
- 9:00 a.m. — Devotions — The Rev. L. Nadiger. Roll Call.
- 9:30 a.m. — Special Order: The Proposed Church Merger.  
Business Session:  
Report on Lutheran World Action.  
Report on the Parish Messenger.  
Report on Sameiningin.
- 12:15 Noon — Lunch.
- 2:00 p.m. — Devotions — The Rev. L. Nadiger.
- 2:15 p.m. — Roll Call. Business Session:  
Report of Convention Committee on Reference and Counsel.  
Report of Convention Committee on Stewardship.  
Report of Convention Committee on Finances.
- 3:30 p.m. — Coffee.
- 4:00 p.m. — Special Order: Greetings by Dr. E. Treusch, Chairman, Canadian Lutheran Council; The Rev. C. Monk, Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- Business Session:  
Report of Convention Committee on Evangelism.  
Report of Convention Committee on Youth Work.  
Report of Convention Committee on Publications.  
Report of Convention Committee on L.W.A. and C.L.W.A.  
Unfinished Business.
- 5:30 p.m. — Adjourn.
- 6:00 p.m. — Supper.
- 8:00 p.m. — Devotions by the Rev. Norman B. Nelson.  
Address: The Rev. C. H. Zeidler, Litt.D., U.L.C.A. Representative.  
Musical Selections.

## Wednesday, June 14th

- 9:00 a.m. — Devotions — The Rev. L. Nadiger.
- 9:15 a.m. — Business Session:  
Election of Officers.  
Unfinished Business.  
New Business.  
Official Closing of Synod.
- 12:00 Noon — Lunch.

## In Memoriam—The Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson

The Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson passed away on March 21, 1961 at the age of 77 years. Born and raised in Iceland, Pastor Olafsson immigrated to the new world at the age of 19 to finish his education. On completion of his theological education at the Portland Seminary, he was ordained in 1915 by the Icelandic Synod. Pastor Olafsson began his ministry by serving the Synod as a Home Missionary on the west coast. After this he served the Gimli Parish, the Arbog-Riverton Parish, and the Selkirk Parish. In 1957 after forty-two consecutive years of faithful service, Pastor Olafsson retired from the active ministry, and took up residence in Winnipeg. Pastor Olafsson also served on the Executive Board of the Synod and for many years he was a member of the Board of the Betel Home for the Aged. In his service to Betel, which was long and devoted, he acted for a time as Chairman of the Board and continued as a member right up to the time of his death.

Surviving are his wife Ingibjorg, two daughters, Freyjas, Mrs. Thomas of South Africa; Josephine, Mrs. L. P. Simonsen of Winnipeg; and two sons, Karl Johann and Jon Olaf, both of Winnipeg.

The funeral service was conducted from the Selkirk Lutheran Church on March 24, with the Pastor, the Rev. W. M. Bergman and the President of the Icelandic Synod, Dr. V. J. Eylands, officiating. Burial was in the Gimli Cemetery, Gimli, Manitoba.



THE REV. SIGURDUR OLAFSSON

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 18th, in Calvary Lutheran Church, Seattle Washington, Dr. Haraldur Sigmar, our former Synod President and Parish Pastor of a number of our synod's parishes, will be honored on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Dr. Sigmar, who served actively in the Synod for forty-six years, is now living in retirement in Kelso, Washington.

### THREE PASTORS TO BE RECEIVED

At this convention three pastors will be welcomed into the Synod. They are: Walter G. Becker, serving St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, St. James; Lorne Nadiger, serving Gimli Lutheran Church, Gimli, Manitoba; and Donald Johnson, serving Minneota Parish, Minneota, Minnesota.



## U.L.C.A. Representative



**REV. C. H. ZEIDLER**

Rev. C. H. Zeidler is president of Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He came to his present position in December, 1956. Previous to that he was president of the Central States Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. He was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Appleton from 1939 to 1954.

Dr. Zeidler is a member of the Executive Board of the United Lutheran Church in America and a member of the Board of the United Lutheran Church Foundation. He also serves as a member of the 15 Man Commission on the Sacrament of the Altar in the United Lutheran Church in America. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Orient Mission and serves on the Stewardship Committee of the Synod of the Northwest.

### **GOD IS LOVE**

It is related that a certain man placed on one of his buildings a weather vane, which, you know, turns with the wind. On the weather vane he had inscribed the words: "God is love." Someone criticized him, saying, "You have placed a never-changing truth on a very changeable thing." "No, it is all right," the man replied. "It means that God is love, whichever way the wind blows." —Lutheran Pioneer, quoted in Lutheran Sentinel.

### **GET OUT ON THE ROAD**

To speculate about the existence of God or about his attributes is a stimulating pastime. But to get out on the road doing something that he seems to be telling us to do is the best way to test whether our hearing is good. —The Lutheran.

### **12 CHURCHES A DAY**

During the past 10 years the nation's population increased at the rate of about 7,000 per day. The census bureau estimates that the population will increase by 44 million during the next 10 years. This means a daily increase of over 12,000 people. If the church were to provide one church for every 1,000 souls it would need to start 12 new churches per day just to keep up with the new population without even touching the backlog of unchurched. —The ALCW Scope

### **PARKING PRIVILEGES**

St. James police have promised to show special consideration to our guests regarding parking privileges. If you do happen to be tagged contact the host pastor and he will do his best for you.

# Move On!

—Continued from Page 2  
fairly well and would like to serve and who would have more interest if they were given more opportunity.

The fact that a congregation or a part of a congregation is active does not mean that it is successful. It may not be active in proclaiming the Gospel, it may just be social activity or administration administering administration. Plans are good, and skillful administration is necessary, but those are only the first steps. I suggest that we try to take the next step, and the Gospel will reach more people.

Here is the point. The people who are already active in a congregation, and think that they are doing all and even more, than they can, they should think over the possibility, that after all they may not be doing the best thing. They may be working hard, but they may be stagnant; they may have been doing the same thing for years, instead of moving up to the next step and giving another person a chance to take over.

The problem is, that people seem to think, that being on a council and being a committee chairman is maturity, and that they are at the end of the road. This is a misunderstanding and hinders the growth of whole congregations. The people who are trying to bring others closer to the church, are keeping people away without knowing it.

These people, the leaders of the congregation, have to realize that they can grow and lead the congregation into spiritual renewal. If they take the next step, the congregation will follow.

Do you remember what Jesus did? He washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus was often humil-

iated, but He told His disciples to learn from Him, and that "Whoever humbles himself like a child, he is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven". (Mark 18:4)

The people who have already served at administrative matters for some time, should move on, and use their time for more study of the Bible, and use their experience to go out and witness to others. We need people who are willing to spend more time in Bible Study and in bringing the Gospel directly to others.

And why not help the Pastor and relieve him of some of his chores, so that he can give more time to preaching and teaching? And why not give experienced laymen more opportunity to preach and teach?

So, let us pledge more prayer, and more Bible study. Let us serve in humility, let us dedicate ourselves to the Lord. If we give time or money selfishly, thinking of the church as ours, we are missing the point and all we will harvest is money and work. But when we give our hearts, ourselves, to the Lord, we will reap souls for Him and we will bring joy into the lives of other people and their joy will overflow in love and gratitude.

The Rev. Ingthor Indridason

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## FROM THE SYNOD OF OHIO NEWS

First Lutheran Church, Bellefontaine, Ohio, is sponsoring an Icelandic student under the foreign exchange program. He will live with the Ralph Huber family on the farm for twelve months, beginning in July. Cost will be underwritten by the congregation.

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## 1960 Benevolence Receipts

	Apportoinment	Receipts	%	L.W.A.
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	\$ 4,428.60	\$ 2,396.04	54.1	\$ 29.35
Icelandic, Vancouver	1,762.20	775.96	44.0	25.00
Braethra, Riverton	1,683.00	200.87	12.0	78.55
Calvary, Seattle	1,683.00	1,687.14	100.	211.96
Selkirk, Selkirk	2,983.20	759.66	25.5	251.86
Gimli, Gimli	1,801.80	891.40	49.5	23.00
Ardal, Arborg	1,537.80	1,056.72	68.7	303.55
Lundar, Lundar	1,234.20	96.12	7.8	
St. Paul's, Minneota	1,062.60	939.60	87.5	283.53
Vikur, Mountain	1,089.00	366.10	33.7	61.59
Herthubreith, Langruth	930.60	199.40	21.4	
St. Peters, Svold	818.40	240.35	30.0	38.40
St. Stephen's, St. James	1,075.80	1,212.89	112.7	173.95
Vidalins, Hensel	666.60	233.00	35.0	27.30
Geysir, Geysir	646.80	182.05	28.1	47.65
Breithvikur, Hnausa	640.20	5.00	.8	7.00
Glenboro, Glenboro	481.80	482.40	100.0	102.17
Mikleyar, Hecla	521.40			
Betel, Silver Bay	290.40			
Immanuel, Baldur	429.00	429.00	100.0	103.32
Fjalla, Milton	422.40	150.00	35.5	20.00
Vidir, Vidir	402.60	21.70	5.4	20.00
Arnes, Arnes	435.60	21.00	5.0	20.00
Lincoln, Taunton	290.40	290.40	100.0	15.00
Gudbrands, Morden	283.80			
Hallson, Hallson	270.60			
Vidines, Husavik	270.60	25.00	9.0	25.00
Frikirkju, Bru	429.00	429.00	100.0	55.30
Concordia, Churchbridge	613.80	500.00	81.4	
Frelsis, Grund	112.20	112.20	100.0	70.27
Trinity, Point Roberts	178.20	178.20	100.0	63.00
Trinity, Camper		15.00		15.00
Gardar, Gardar		78.05		40.00
Luther League				113.38
Margaret Bardal				10.00
Sundry		45.00		
Totals	\$29,475.60	\$14,019.25	47.5	\$2,215.13